

DESCOVY® – Your HIV medicine is changing its name

This leaflet includes the most important things you need to know about your medicine. It's not supposed to replace the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with the medicine, but should be read alongside it. After reading this leaflet, if you have any questions please speak to your clinic team.

Clinic contact details

Summary

This leaflet gives information about the change of the brand name 'Descovy' to the de-branded name 'emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide' Gilead® film-coated tablets.

Key points

- Descovy and emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide are the same medicine.
- Only the name shown on labels and packaging will change.
- The medicine has **not** changed.
- The active ingredients, dose (amount), safety and effectiveness all stay the same.
- You should continue taking the medicine exactly as prescribed.
- Speak to your HIV clinic or pharmacist if you have any questions.

What is changing?

Gilead Sciences Ltd is the manufacturer of Descovy. They have changed the name from 'Descovy' to 'emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide'. This means the name on the medicine packaging will look different, but the medicine will remain the same.

What's the difference between 'Descovy' and 'emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide'?

Descovy is the brand name given to the medicine by the manufacturer. The Descovy tablet contains 2 active ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide. The medicine is now being marketed by the names of these active ingredients instead of the previous brand name. This process is known as de-branding.

Will my tablets look different?

The tablets' appearance has not changed. It's identical to the Descovy tablet. The ingredients and manufacturing processes have not changed at all, so these points have not changed at all:

- effectiveness
- side effects
- precautions, safety and monitoring

How will this change affect me?

There is no difference in the way your body responds to the medicine, because the tablet has not changed.

You might still be given medicine with the old Descovy packaging while the remaining stock is used up and the new emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide Gilead is introduced. This could even happen after you have received a supply of the de-branded product.

Descovy will probably be referred to as emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide on clinic letters, prescriptions, pharmacy labels, and hospital records as well as the packets of medicine.

You might still hear healthcare professionals call the medicine Descovy while we all adjust to the change.

Are there any changes to the manufacturer's leaflet for the de-branded product?

Apart from the change to the name of the product, the manufacturer's leaflet remains unchanged. You should still refer to it for more information about your medicines.

When will the change happen?

The product has already started to be prescribed under its new name, from June 2026.

Will this change affect the availability of my medicine?

This change should have no impact on the availability of your medicines.

What should I do if I'm unsure if I have received the correct medicine?

If your medicine looks unexpectedly different, or if you're unsure if you have received the correct medicine, speak to your pharmacist or HIV clinic.

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